

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nonvolatile memory card comprising:
 - a nonvolatile semiconductor memory having a plurality of nonvolatile memory cells and capable of storing predetermined information; and
 - a controller for giving an instruction of operation of said nonvolatile semiconductor memory on the basis of a command issued from the outside,
 - wherein said nonvolatile semiconductor memory can store two or more pieces of firmware, and
 - wherein said controller has a volatile semiconductor memory for storing said firmware, and when a firmware selecting instruction is made valid, said controller selects one arbitrary firmware from two or more pieces of firmware which can be stored in said volatile semiconductor memory, stores it in said volatile semiconductor memory, accesses said volatile semiconductor memory and executes a process by said firmware.
2. The nonvolatile memory card according to claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile semiconductor memory is a multivalue flash memory for setting threshold voltage of one of said nonvolatile memory cells within one of a plurality of threshold voltage levels and storing data of one bit or larger into one of said nonvolatile memory cells.

3. The nonvolatile memory card according to claim 2, wherein a unit of reading data of said nonvolatile semiconductor memory is 512 bytes or larger.

4. The nonvolatile memory card according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the two or more pieces of firmware stored in said nonvolatile semiconductor memory is a program having a security function.

5. The nonvolatile memory card according to claim 4, wherein said controller retrieves firmware to be stored in said volatile semiconductor memory by using firmware identification information stored in a firmware management region in said nonvolatile semiconductor memory.